



## **CONSUMER ADVOCATES AND INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS APPLAUD INTRODUCTION OF SENATE CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT PREVENTION BILL**

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**November 15, 2022, Washington, D.C.** – The American Car Rental Association (ACRA), Automotive Recyclers Association, NAFA Fleet Management Association, National Consumers League, National Insurance Crime Bureau, National Salvage Vehicle Reporting Program, and the Truck Renting and Leasing Association today collectively thanks Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) for the introduction of S. 5024, the “Prevent Auto Recycling Theft (PART) Act”. The bill will assist law enforcement with important tools to halt catalytic converter thefts – thefts that are rising dramatically across the nation.

“The nation’s car rental companies applaud Senator Klobuchar’s and Senator Wyden’s leadership on the important issue of uniform standards to mark catalytic converters and create a transparent secondary market to deter theft,” stated Sharky Laguana, President of the American Car Rental Association and Chief Executive Office of Bandago of San Francisco, CA. “Virtually every car rental company in the country has been victimized by thefts of catalytic converters – thefts that drive up operating costs dramatically -- and ACRA urges the Senate to consider this legislation as soon as possible.”

“I personally was a victim of catalytic converter theft – my personal vehicle on the streets of Washington, D.C.!,” Sally Greenberg, Executive Director of the National Consumers League, stated emphatically. “Congressional action to deter catalytic converter legislation is overdue, and I and consumers across the nation thank Senators Klobuchar and Wyden for their leadership on this important consumer protection issue.”

“TRALA has been working on the prevention of catalytic converter theft in many states across the nation to combat this growing problem in our industry. TRALA welcomes Senators Klobuchar’s and Wyden’s efforts to establish a federal framework for theft prevention,” stated Jake Jacoby, President and CEO of the Truck Renting and Leasing Association. “We look forward to working with Senators Klobuchar and Wyden in moving this important legislation to the President’s desk and into law.”

“Fleet managers are reporting that their companies and government agencies are incurring substantial financial costs and loss of vehicle productivity as a result of the theft of catalytic converters,” stated Bill Schankel, CEO of NAFA Fleet Management Association. “We thank Senators Klobuchar and Wyden for sponsoring this legislation which will keep fleet vehicles on the road and out of the repair shop.”

“Catalytic converter thefts have skyrocketed nationwide since the pandemic began, and because these are property crimes, there is very little deterrent for the individuals committing these acts,” stated David Glawe, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Insurance Crime Bureau. “Congress must act to make stealing a catalytic converter a felony and introduce stiffer penalties to deter would-be criminals from committing these acts in the first place. Additionally, law enforcement needs the capability to track illegal sales in the secondary market.”

“The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) and professional automotive recyclers are deeply committed to combatting catalytic converter theft and have been actively working with law enforcement and state legislatures on effective solutions to deter theft. Professional automotive recyclers are the largest collective owners of total loss/end-of-life motor vehicles and have been targets

for catalytic converter theft groups over the last several years. ARA thanks Senator Klobuchar and Senator Wyden for their leadership in combatting catalytic converter theft by introducing the PART Act in the Senate” stated Sandy Blalock, ARA’s Executive Director. “The PART Act will help protect the public and will provide important tools for law enforcement.”

The National Salvage Vehicle Reporting Program (NSVRP) has been actively involved in fighting the catalytic converter theft problem and has provided many government agencies, legislature and law enforcement detailed background information in support of these efforts. Presently roughly 700,000+ catalytic converters are stolen annually, and this legislation will help to reduce that problem. For more information on the catalytic converter theft problem -- including the detailed NSVRP white paper on catalytic converter theft -- please look at the [NSVRP.org/catalytic-converter-theft](http://NSVRP.org/catalytic-converter-theft) webpage.

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